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Olympic Censorship

In a disgraceful capitulation to Soviet pressure, the International Olympic Committee has canceled the accreditation of Radio Free Europe's reporters to cover the winter Olympics at Innsbruck. The intolerable precedent thus set opens the possibility of nations with the requisite gall and power dictating which newspapers, radio stations or other media may or may not cover Olympic events—a danger that would be particularly acute at the Moscow games coming up in four years.

What makes this act of censorship doubly outrageous is that the Soviet pressure comes less than a year after adoption of the Helsinki Declaration which supposedly made for expansion, not contraction, of the volume and variety of information exchanges between East and West. Prompt reversal of this craven decision is required to redeem the Olympic spirit.